少女系列 TONG LI

NEKAKUSHI NO KUNI

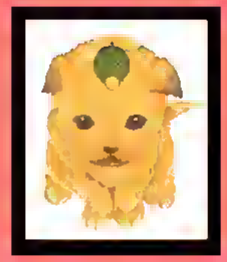
筑波 櫻（さくら） 9

NEKAKUSHI NO KUNI

9 END

筑波 櫻

東立 NT-80



▶Synopsis◀

When Kanade and Namiki touch a person, they can see his or her future But Arou is the exact opposite When Arou went to the last place his mother lived before she died-a place that is also his uncle's home - he finally was able to recall the circumstances of his mother's death. This is the final chapter to the mysterious romantic story that involves thefuture and the past

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Synopsis

At Arou's uncle house where Arou's mother last lived before her death, Arou saw the past. Even though it was a painful memory, Arou was able to remember how much his mother loved him and figure out why his powers became so strong... why his blindfold fell off... it is all because of what happened in the past. But when his uncle found out the truth...

Tsukuba Sakura's Work

Mekakushi no Kuni---- 9 volumes

MEKAKUSHI NO KUNI

VOLUME 9

BY TSUKUBA SAKURA

Contents

MEKAKUSHI NO KUNI Chapter 36 3

Chapter 37 39

Chapter 38 77

Chapter 39 113

Final Chapter 149

Appendix 188

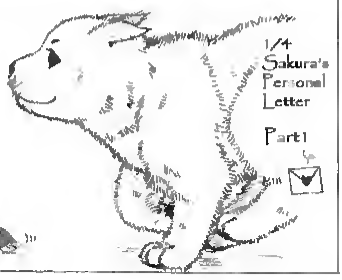
Mekakushi no Kuni

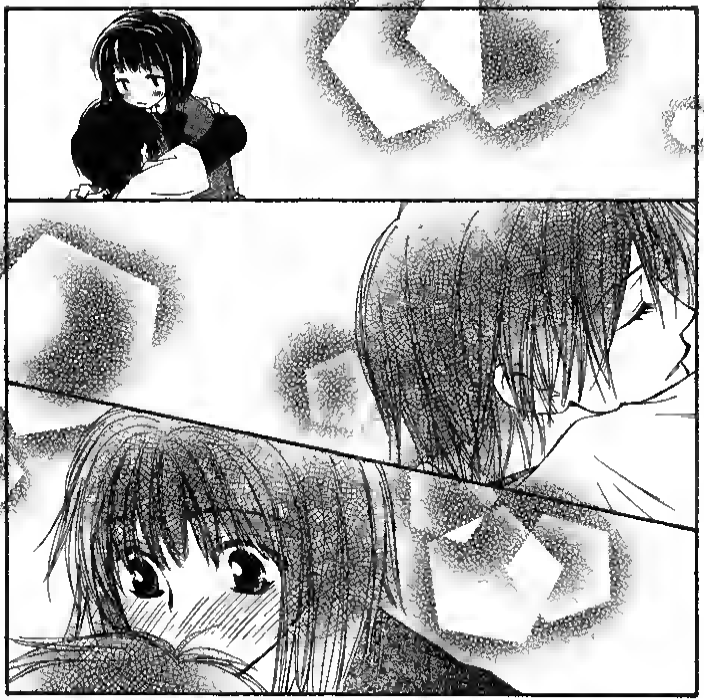
Chapter 36

I HAVE ALWAYS WONDERED IF THIS POWER EXISTED SO THAT I CAN HELP SOMEONE
I DIDN'T WANT TO BE A HERO
"I ONLY WANTED TO BE ACCEPTED BY OTHERS, SO THAT I COULD STAY HERE. . ."

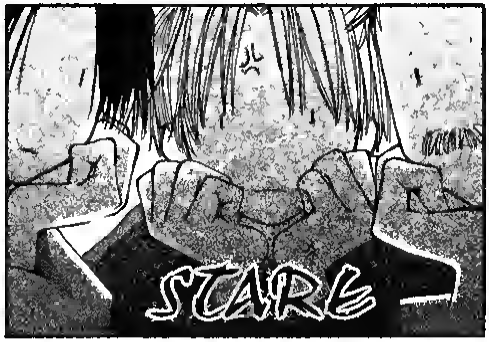
Hello everyone. I'm Tsukuba Sakura! Mekakushi no Kuni is finally at volume nine. the last volume. Thanks for everyone's support!

Anyway, this is the last volume! The story in the last volume carries on from the one before. that is Area's memories, so the story is a little dark... Ah... Sorry!





RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOUR SENPAI
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?
SORRY
SO


STARE

WHATEVER, COME ON IN! COME AND HAVE A CUP OF TEA!
Sure!
AROU!
DOESN'T THIS BRING BACK MEMORIES?
I BOUGHT IT BACK.
WELL?
THIS IS THE HOUSE THAT YOU AND MOTHER LIVED IN WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG
HAVE YOU REMEMBERED ANYTHING?
Yes.
When I was 10 years old.
I remember...

.....
HEY, NAITOU AROU!
Glance
YOU LOST YOUR SHOES?
MY SHOES ARE MISSING
.....
PUSH
HUH?
C'MON BE OUR SERVANT!
Snirk
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY FIND THEM ON YOUR OWN!
Chuckle
AND WE'LL HELP YOU LOOK FOR THEM!
Snirk
Snirk
THAT
.....
THAT
.....
Walk Walk

WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS? STUPID TRANSFER STUDENT!
AND TO THINK THAT YUUKA GAVE HIM AN ERASER!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
That Punk!
WE'LL MAKE HIM CRY! DON'T TELL HIM WHERE HIS SHOES ARE!
Yeah! That's Right!
.....
A SINGLE PERSON WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIND THESE ON HIS OWN!
.....
HUH?
.....
FOUND THEM!

HOW?
HOW DID YOU KNOW? I WANTED TO HELP YOU LOOK FOR IT TOGETHER...
TOGETHER?
A PLACE LIKE THAT IS NOT EASY TO FIND!
COOL...
HOW DID YOU KNOW WHERE THE SHOES WERE?
THOSE GUYS WHO LIKE TO BULLY— I HATE THEM.
YEP!
FRIENDS CAN'T KEEP SECRETS FROM EACH OTHER!
MY NAME IS YAMAGUCHI TAKEO. LET'S BE FRIENDS!

At the time, with my power ...
...could only see the short past of the people that I touched.
Even though sometimes, I might accidentally see...
But in most cases, if I do not focus,
I will not be able to see the past.
HUH?
WHEN YOU TOUCH SOMEONE YOU CAN SEE THEIR PAST?
YES, BUT IF I DON'T CONCENTRATE,
THEN EVEN IF I TOUCH SOMEONE I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE...
OH! SO THAT'S HOW YOU KNEW WHERE THE SHOES WERE HIDDEN!

POWERS LIKE THAT CAN COME IN HANDY!
IT'S A GOOD THING!
HUH?
PUSH
BECAUSE YOU TOUCHED THAT KID JUST NOW!
YEP!
ARE'N'T YOU AFRAID?
?
OF COURSE NOT!
AROU!
...ROU!

Jyuuuuuuu
CAN I USE SOME SMALL PLATES?
It smells so good!
YE... YES...
THAT'S RIGHT, COME TO THINK OF IT

WAS I FRYING SOMETHING JUST NOW?
I should prepare our what I can make!
Rumble
WE HAVEN'T HAD DINNER YET

CAN OPENER! CAN OPENER!
桃
AH...
FOUND IT...

1/4 Sakura's Private Letters, Pt.2

In the chapters with Arou's memories... most of the story happened at night and the frames were dark. Ah! Even though little Arou looked so happy the plot was very dark! Just imagine everyone imagine that even the author was saddened by the it. Surely Arou must be even more sad. And naturally the readers must feel the same~Sob~ Ah! Since I have so much happiness in my life surely I can share some with Arou! I'll make him healthier!

Arou's powers make me feel so awed! I gave him such strong powers so that he would have the support to go on living...

But of course this power was also the source of his consternation...

Ah.

THAT'S RIGHT! SO IS THIS TABLE AND THESE CHAIRS
THIS CAN OPENER IS FROM THE OLD HOUSE...
AND THAT CABINET...
SOMETHING MOM USED TO USE!
EVERY-THING IS...

AROU, YOUR MOTHER IS REALLY BEAUTIFUL!
REALLY ?
Slurp
Slurp
UNLIKE MY PARENTS. THEY'RE SO OLD!
OH!
YOU CAN COME TO MY PLACE NEXT TIME!
WE CAN PLAY IS TOGETHER!
OK!
SHOCK
HERE! HAVE SOME JUICE!
KUUU
MM... THANKS MA'AM...
AROU, HELP ME GRAB MINE!
Pat Pat
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU!
AROU, THIS IS MY MOTHER!
WELCOME!

PLEASE ...
PLEASE ENJOY!
THUD THUD
I TOLD HER YOU WERE AWESOME!
YEP!
DID YOU TELL YOUR MOTHER ABOUT MY POWERS?
YEAH?
TAKEO ....
IS THAT SO...
Rumble
Rumble
Rumble
Rumble
Rumble

AROU, LET ME ASK YOU.
I'VE HEARD THAT YOU ONLY NEED TO TOUCH SOMEONE TO BE ABLE TO SEE THAT PERSON'S PAST. IS THAT TRUE?
YOUR MOTHER JUST CALLED.
IT'S GETTING LATE SO SHE'S COMING OVER TO PICK YOU UP.
OKAY.
AROU!
THE BATHROOM IS AT THE END OF THE HALL...
IT'S GETTING DARK...
THEN RIGHT...

JUST NOW YOU TOUCHED ME. RIGHT? ANSWER ME HONESTLY!
YE-...
YE-...
YES.
THEN...
THEN YOU KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT TAKEO, RIGHT?
YOU KNOW THAT TAKEO IS NOT OUR BIOLOGICAL SON, DON'T YOU?
PLEASE DON'T TELL THAT CHILD!
IF YOU CAN REALLY SEE A PERSON'S PAST, THEN YOU PROBABLY ALSO KNOW HOW MUCH EFFORT THAT WE PUT IN.
I can't see that far back!
I didn't know anything about that!
SO PLEASE DON'T TELL HIM THAT HE'S ADOPTED...

Turn
DASH
TAKEO
!

WAIT! TAKEO!
TAKEO !
ABOUT ME BEING ADOPTED ...
DON'T TOUCH ME!
TAKEO !
I DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW THAT AT ALL!
SHOCK
Sob
IF IT WASN'T ...
WHISPER
IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU ...
Sob

Plip

That's right! I didn't meet her!
And then?
And what happened next?
But on the way home I didn't meet my mother...
And then I went straight home.
HUH?
TAKEO?
SHOCK
IS ...ROW WITH YOU?
Turns
AH!
RUN.

No!

Back there my powers weren't as strong as they are now!
I WASN'T THERE!
What was that scene?
Ha
Splash
Ha
Splash
How come I knew of that scene?

Ha
Ha
SPLASH
AUNTIE!
AROU!
A...
Ha
SPLASH
HAVE YOU SEEN MY MOTHER? I WAITED FOR HER AT HOME BUT SHE NEVER CAME BACK!
SHE NEVER SHOWED UP! THERE'S ONLY ONE ROAD FROM YOUR PLACE TO OURS. SHE COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE GOTTEN LOST...
I HAVE ALREADY CALLED THE POLICE! TAKEO DIDN'T COME BACK EITHER!
I'M WORRIED THAT SOMETHING MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM...
Zaaaa
Ha
Thump
Ha
Thump
Thump
THUMP
Ha
Ha
THUMP
THUMP
Ha
IT'S DANGEROUS! AROU!
JUST STAY AT HOME...
A-AROU!
Dash

MOM!
THUMP
POWERS LIKE THAT CAN COME IN HANDY!
MOM!
THUMP
NO! EVEN THOUGH I HAVE THAT KIND OF POWER I STILL CAN'T SEE ANYTHING!
Ha
Ha
THUMP
ANYTHING! PLEASE TELL ME!
WHAT SHOULD I DO? COULD SHE HAVE GOTTEN IN AN ACCIDENT?
PLEASE TELL ME WHERE MY MOM IS!
DASH
MOM WON'T BE ABLE TO TOLERATE SO MUCH RAIN!
HHH
PLEASE! TELL ME WHERE MY MOM IS?
PLEASE!

PLEASE!

SFX: THU—

AH! THIS IS...
FOREST, RAIN...
THE PAST OF THE AIR!
WHAT IS THIS?
MOM ...
I SEE MOM!
THAT'S ODD? THIS FEELS SO GOOD! WITH EVERY-ONE.
IF THAT'S HOW IT IS, THEN SOMEONE LIKE ME SHOULD JUST
ROU
WHAT ...
ちゅっ

JUST DISAP-PEAR ...
AROU !

Mom!
MOM, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
EVEN THOUGH FELL DOWN FROM UP THERE,
THANKS FOR FINDING ME, AROU!
IT'S ONLY MINOR INJURIES.
I hurt my foot and can't move.
DASH
TAKEO IS FINE TOO. HE'S JUST TIRED AND FELL ASLEEP.
MOM...
MOM! YOU HAVE A HIGH FEVER!
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT!
WHAT SHOULD I DO? MOM'S BODY HAS ALWAYS BEEN WEAK!
WE'VE ALREADY CALLED THE POLICE, THEY COULD BE NEAR BY, I'LL GO...
IF IT WASN'T FOR ME, THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED!
AROU!

DON'T WORRY!
IT'LL BE EASY FOR THE POLICE TO FIND US HERE.
YOU CAN STAY HERE.
STAY HERE WITH ME!

AROU
!

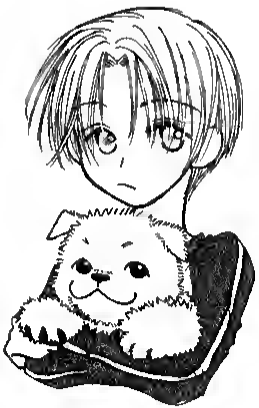
I'M SO HAPPY!
TO HAVE YOU BY MY SIDE!

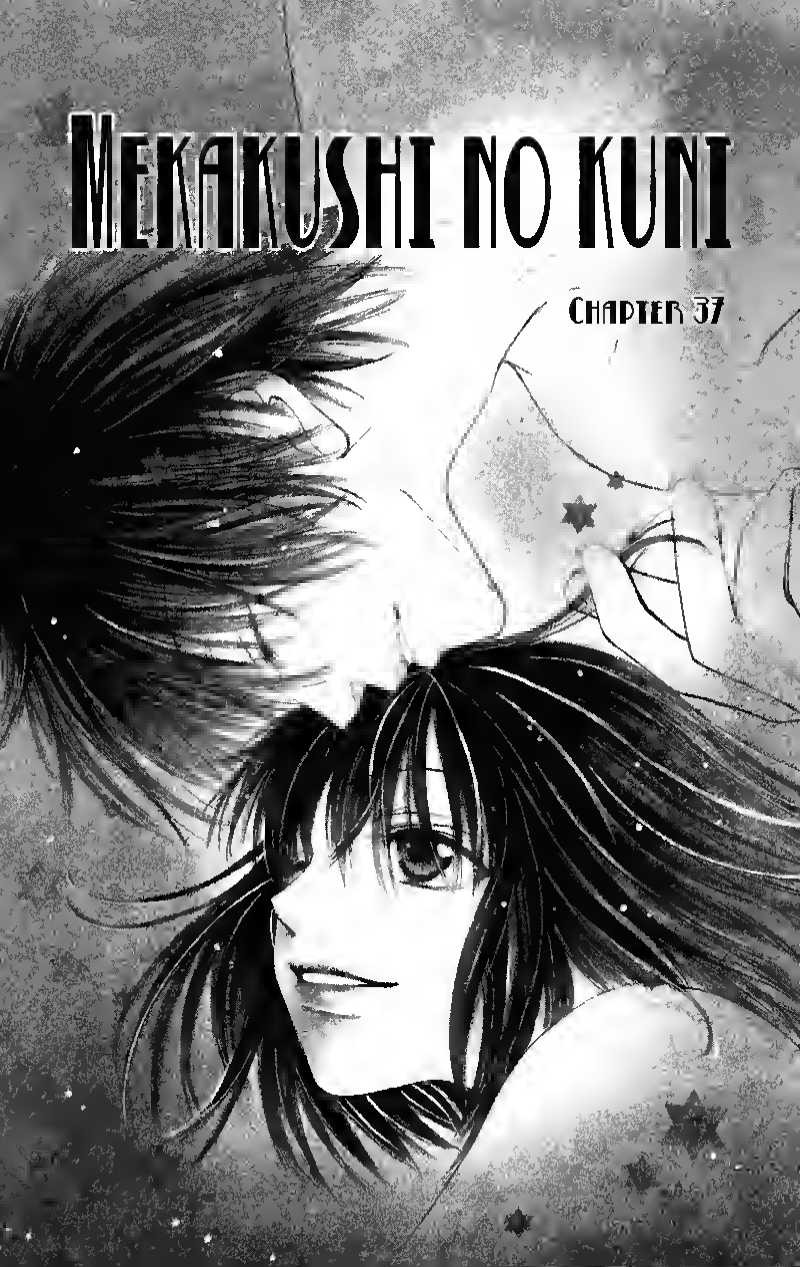
Plip
Plop
SWAY
SWAY
SWAY
Kanade ?
NO. I DON'T KNOW MYSELF
Is it because of the onions?
Rub
Rub
YOU WHAT'S WRONG? KANADE?
THERE WAS A TIME
THEN I TOUGHT I MADE A MISTAKE
Rub
Rub
I TOUGHT I SAW YOU CRYING. BUT,

BACK THEN ...
THERE WERE SOME MEMORIES THAT I COULD NEVER SEEM TO REMEMBER.
BUT I FINALLY REMEMBER EVERY-THING!
I PRAYED REALLY, REALLY HARD!
IT WAS PROBABLY BECAUSE I PRAYED SO HARD
THAT MY POWER SUDDENLY BECAME SO STRONG...
I FEEL THAT...
NOT LONG AFTER THAT, THE POLICE FOUND, AND RESCUED US
BUT, MY MOTHER WAS SOAKED AND AND SHE NEVER DID RECOVER THE SECOND DAY!

I WAS SO HAPPY BACK THEN.
I REALLY WAS
VERY HAPPY!
OF COURSE, I'M ALSO VERY HAPPY NOW!

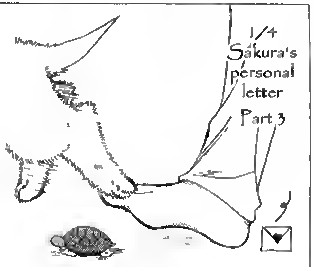
BECAUSE YOU'RE HERE WITH ME
I'M ALSO VERY HAPPY NOW!




MEKAKUSHI NO KUNI
CHAPTER 37

I REMEMBER THE TIME WHEN MY POWER SUDDENLY GOT STRONGER!
UNCLE SOU,
I PRAYED AND PRAYED, I PRAYED SO HARD
AND THEN I FINALLY FOUND HER!
AFTER-WARDS...
HOWEVER, BACK THEN MY OWN STRENGTH WASN'T ENOUGH... I STILL COULDN'T FIND HER...
SO I KEPT PRAYING WITH ALL MY HEART THAT I WOULD BE ABLE TO FIND OUT MOM'S WHERE-ABOUTS
IT WAS WHEN I WAS LOOKING FOR MOM...

It was actually my intention to make the cover page more simple this time. Originally my plan was to add all the pretty colors, but after carefully putting a lot of efforts in the coloring I realised that Aroun and Kanade-- had became so sexy! This isn't-- too good, is it? So I fixed it up while panicking and it ended up like this. However I quite like it! To tell you the truth when I was drawing this illustration I hadn't even thought about the plot of this chapter! So how did the story turn out like this ? I'm quite surprised myself!



I REALIZED THAT...
MY POWER HAD ALREADY BECOME STRONGER...
THE PAST, MEMORIES... I COULD SEE THEM ALL!
AFTER... "PRAYING WITH ALL OF MY HEART" ...
THAT WAS PROBABLY WHEN THE POWER INCREASED? HM...

WOW!!
WHAT A HUGE CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATION!!
LOOK KANADE!
Hehehe! No kidding!
EVEN THE STARS ARE ENORMOUS!!
IT'S EVEN BIGGER THAN YOUR FACE, ERI!
rustle
rustle
YEAH! THAT LOOKS GOOD, AKIU!
HEY! IS IT OKAY TO HANG THIS SOCK HERE?
It's already December...
Finally the end of the year has arrived. Everyone is helping out with the school's Christmas decorations, hanging ornaments on the tree...
OOPS!

TAP
SLIP!
AH!
AH!
slip
slip
slip
WAH!
slip
TAP
PUSH

OKAY
THAT'S GREAT!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
AH ...
WHOA, THANK YOU!
LUCKILY YOU PUSHED ME AWAY!
I'M FINE!
YEAH!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
So hard some
.....
Wah!
REALLY
AROU'S REALLY A NICE GUY!
YEAH!
HEH HEH HEH!
shock
DON'T YOU THINK THAT ANY GIRL WOULD HAVE THEIR HEART SET AFLUTTER IF THEY WERE SAVED LIKE THAT?
.....
YOU'RE THE GIRLFRIEND AREN'T YOU WORRIED?

DO YOU THINK THIS BELL IS GOOD?
OF COURSE!
Arou and I, we both have the same secret.
KANADE!
Oh! Really?
WHEN OTHER PEOPLE ARE IN DANGER, AND YOU REACH OUT TO HELP THEM,
OF COURSE IT IS A GOOD THING!
I can sometimes see their future...
When we touch other people,
...Past
THERE IS...
A LEAF CAUGHT IN YOUR HAIR!
ERI!
Whereas Arou can see their ...
TOUCH.

Although she did have a small misunderstanding about me before...
but now, she's already become my best friend!
HUH?
DID ANYTHING HAPPEN TO HIM?
HEY KANADE,
ABOUT AROU...
Err also know that we possess those kind of powers...
IT'S AROU'S BIRTHDAY!
AROU!
.....
I FEEL THAT HE'S SOMEHOW MORE RELAXED NOW
THAT HE'S MORE NATURAL
HUH?
EVEN THOUGH SOME OF THE GIRLS ALREADY KNOW THAT AROU IS YOUR BOYFRIEND, THEY'LL STILL WANT TO STEAL HIM AWAY
AH, BY THE WAY, THERE'S ONLY A FEW MORE DAYS UNTIL THE 7TH, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE?

I HEARD THAT YOUR BIRTHDAY IS COMING! IS THAT RIGHT?
The girls are all talking about it!
YOU CAN PREPARE ALL OF THE DELICIOUS FOOD FOR US!
HOW DID IT TURN OUT LIKE THIS?
Oh! Now he knows about it already!
YEAH!
LET'S HOLD A BIRTHDAY PARTY THEN!
WE'RE ALL LOOKING FOWARD TO IT!
WE CAN'T HAVE A SURPRISE PARTY FOR HIM NOW...

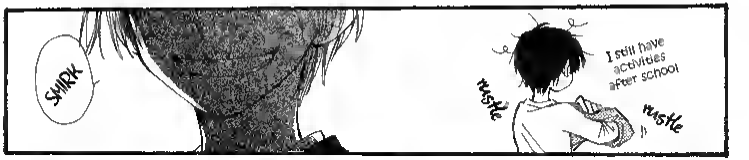
ANYWAY, WE ALREADY HAD ONE FOR NAMIKI-SAN'S BIRTHDAY.
SIGHS
A SECOND TIME WON'T BE AS FUN...
DID YOU CALL ME?
WHAT'S WRONG?
slide...
ARE YOU TROUBLED?

WAH WAH! NAMIKI-SAN!
WHAT'S UP? IF YOU'RE TROUBLED ABOUT SOMETHING YOU CAN TELL ME!
Not only that,
NO-THING
NO.
I'M NOT TROUBLED AT ALL!
but Namiki-san has the same ability as me.
WHAT?
I CAN SOLVE IT MYSELF!
When he touches, someone he can also see their future.
YOU ARE FIGURING OUT HOW TO CELEBRATE AROU'S BIRTHDAY?
YEAH.
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING? CAN YOU EVEN KEEP AROU FROM KNOWING?
but Arou already found out about it.
HE'S A MISTER NICE GUY SO HE WILL PROBABLY COOK THE FOOD FOR HIS OWN CELEBRATION.
I'm sure of it.
YEAH, EVERYONE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CELEBRATION!
HOLDING A NORMAL PARTY WILL DO
Otherwise it will be too troublesome

BUT THERE'S ONE GOOD THING ABOUT THAT GUY AND THAT IS HE WILL BE VERY HAPPY WITH,
WHAT-EVER YOU GIVE HIM
Trouble some?
YEAH
I THINK SO TOO, BUT...
I still don't know what to get him...
AH!
IT'S ALL RIGHT!
I WILL THINK ABOUT THE GIFT MYSELF!
REALLY?
EVEN THOUGH GIVING ANYTHING IS FINE...
BUT...

I SUGGEST THAT...
YOU DON'T TOUCH AROU FOR NOW
BECAUSE ONE WILL ONLY BE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED,
WHEN THE PRESENT'S CONTENTS IS REVEALED THE MOMENT YOU OPEN IT
THAT'S TRUE
YUP!!
I went home first -Kanade
DI-NG
DO-NG

.....
HUH? SHE WENT HOME ALREADY?
Oh
WHERE IS KAEDE?
EH?
IT SEEMS THAT SHE WENT HOME ALREADY.....
WHAT? IN THAT CASE, I'M GOING HOME TOO!
.....

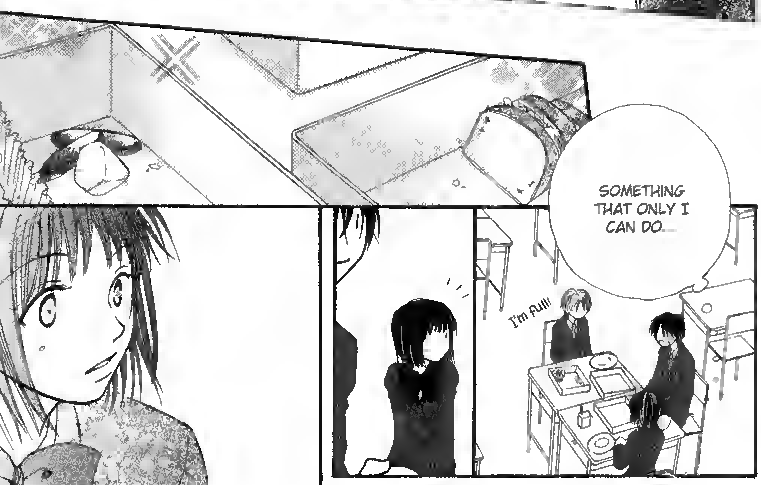

I still have activities after school
rustle
rustle
SMIRK

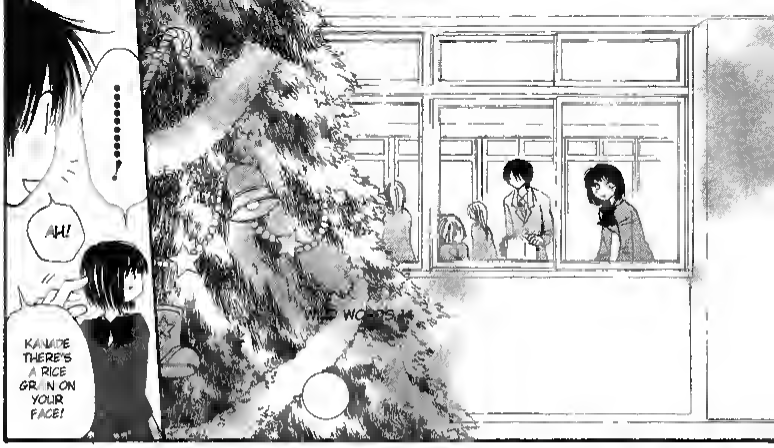
DING!

Poof
WHY?
IT ROSE SO NICELY JUST NOW!
KANADE
JO—BON
OH NO!
WHY DID IT BECOME LIKE THAT!?
NO NEED!
DO YOU NEED HEL...?
Mix
Mix
.....
DID YOU USE IT...?
THE POWDER HERE
YEAH
It really doesn't taste so good
NAMIKI-SAN'S CAKE TASTED LIKE THAT TOO!
Ha Ha Ha
INDEED IT TASTES HORRIBLE
WHAT SHOULD I DO? TOMORROW IS AROLI'S BIRTHDAY!
DON'T WORRY!
DASHDASH

AS LONG AS THERE'S LOVE IT'S ENOUGH!
LOVE!
LOVE?
munch
munch
THAT'S RIGHT!
LOVE CAN MAKE THE MOST ORDINARY PRESENT SEEM EXTRAORDINARY!
BESIDES,
AROU WOULD WANT TO SPEND SOME QUALITY TIME WITH YOU, DON'T YOU THINK?
!
SHOCK
OH, FINALLY A GOOD ONE!
AND YOU MEAN..?

HAHAHA! SORRY! SORRY!
POW
POW
POW
AS LONG AS IT IS FROM YOU, AROU WILL HAPPILY ACCEPT HIS PRESENT...
ERI YOU BIG IDIOT!!
OH LALA! WHAT KIND OF THOUGHT DID YOU JUST HAVE?
Did you misunderstand me just now! Hohoho
E... E... E...
ANYWAY, THERE'S ONE THING THAT ONLY YOU CAN DO...


SOMETHING THAT ONLY I CAN DO...
I'm Ruii!


.....!
AH!
KANADE THERE'S A RICE GRAIN ON YOUR FACE!
WHAT WORDS!!

BESIDES, HE WOULD WANT TO SPEND SOME QUALITY TIME WITH YOU TOO
WOULDN'T HE..?
I SUGGEST THAT YOU DON'T TOUCH HIM FOR NOW
AH!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
DON'T...

BY THE WAY,
YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE OBENTO FOR ME TO MORROW!
OK.
AH... I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY, AROU...
chatter
chatter
chatter
YEAH, I KNOW.
DO-KU-DO-KU
I'm sorry, I went home first again...
-Kanade
I'm going home!
DEPRESSED
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

mur
mur
mur
mur
mur
mur
mur
mur
WOW!
Everyone likes parties
THAT'S GREAT, KANADE! ONE WORD FROM YOU, SO MANY PEOPLE CAME TO HELP!!
Love.
Love.
depressed
...
rumble
rumble
rumble
rumble
rumble
rumble
rumble
rumble
rumble
...but compared to them.
THEY ARE ALL PUTTING IN A LOT OF LOVE.
Chatter
Chatter

My love should be the greatest!!
drip
THE RIBBON ON YOUR NECK IS SO CUTE!!
HEY, KANADE!
AH!
HEHEHEHE! REALLY?
THIS FEELS LIKE PARTY!
YEAH! IT'S REALLY CUTE!
Ha Ha Ha

COME IN AROU!
BLOW OUT THE CANDLES! ALL IN ONE BREATH!!

THANKS EVERY-ONE!
.....
THUMP

Did you make this yourself?
It tastes good!!
Aah!!
Thanks!
dap
dap
dap
AH! SO CUTE!
BLOW
SO ADOR-ABLE!

HUH? NAMIKI-SAN WENT HOME ALREADY?
YEAH, THE PRESIDENT SAW HIM LEAVING JUST NOW
She told me
KANADE,
.....
trot
trot
trot
THANK YOU FOR TODAY'S PARTY—

I'M VERY HAPPY!
.....
YEAH!
BUT...
A PARTY IS A PRESENT FROM EVERY-ONE.
THERE'S SOMETHING THAT I WANT TO GIVE YOU MYSELF!
DO YOU HAVE TIME?
I'M HOME!
TODAY WAS...
JUST AS TIRING...
Master's back!

COLLAPSE
JUMP!
Why! Why! What's wrong!
.....
Pat
NEVER-MIND!
IN ANY CASE,
I WAS A BIT NAUGHTY THERE!
DEPRESSED
I'LL LET YOU OFF THE HOOK THIS TIME!!
He he he!
SLURP
SLURP
SLURP
SLURP
.....

IN HERE?
RMMBLE
RMMBLE
RMMBLE
THE PARK?
rustle
rustle
rustle
.....
SWITCH
ON!
TA
DA
OH...
Though the lights are on it's a bit few...
I only thought of climbing trees after seeing the Christmas trees.
THERE IS A SMALL SPACE AT THE TOP OF THE TREE.
Ain't You're right.
BECAUSE THE TREES IN THIS REGION ARE LOCATED ON HIGHER GROUNDS

1/4 Sakura's Personal Letter Part4

This chapter is about Arou's birthday I haven't drawn something this relaxing silly and funny in a while. However I have redrawn this chapter more times than I have with the others. There's a scene where Arou shouted Kanade's name I have redrawn that scene numerous times and even lost count of them. At the first go I drew Arou with an evil grin and actually that the baddie look of Arou didn't look so bad at all... But the Editor requested "Make Arou cooler". That time I was swaying towards the "cute Arou" and therefore I had to fix up the drafts numerous times because they all turned out to be cute Arou. The friends who came to help out and me used so much effort that it was enough to turn the house up side down until we got the scene right. And when we finally did finish it everyone couldn't help themselves but calling him "Prince"! I will include an evil Arou in the omake so please look forward to it!

WOW!
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SCENERY!
PRETTY, RIGHT?
NO WAY!
SORRY, THE CAKES, AREN'T VERY NICE,
WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I OFTEN CAME TO THIS PARK TO PLAY!
MY PERSONAL PRESENT TO YOU,
IS THIS BEAUTIFUL SCENERY!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !
AROU!
I...
.....
I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ANOTHER PRESENT.
THAT IS...
HUH?

I WANT YOU!

ALL RIGHT!

Sigh...
!
FA
GL
GR
AB
WAH!
THAT ...
THAT ...
.....
THAT WAS SO DANGEROUS!
FLAKEY
FLAKEY
FLAKEY
THANK YOU KANADE!
YOU'RE WELCOME.
Yeah
It's actually too small here.

THE PRESENT YOU GAVE ME,
I WILL DEFINITELY CHERISH IT!

PLEASE DO!

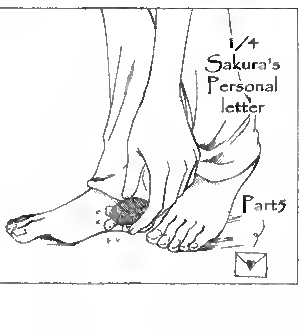
Mekakushi no Kuni

Chapter 38

THE COLDER IT GETS, THE MORE IT FEELS LIKE CHRISTMAS.
AS LONG AS THE CHRISTMAS PARTY CAN BE HELD,
That's right!
THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING
OUCH!
POINT

The title page used this time is Namiki's hand pressing against Maroto. I my guesses for myself as to how many seconds it would take to for it to wake up? The fact about whether Namiki sleeps naked or not is still an uncertainty! I felt really sorry for Namiki in the chapter that was about Arou's birthday! (Even when he wants to play a prank... he can only manage do a little bit.) After he goes home, I guess the turtle and/or Maroto will comfort him. Since it's the last chapter, I thought...

to be continued

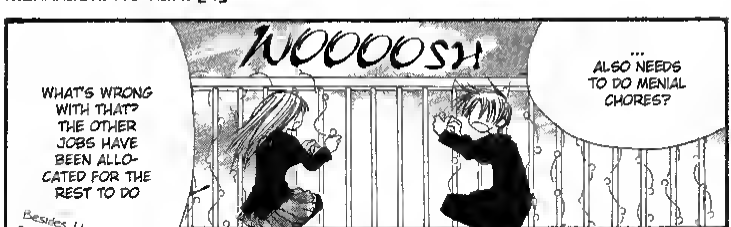


AH!
IT'S BLEEDING!
ERI! LEND ME A BAND-AID!
If not it's going to stain other clothes
THERE YOU GO AGAIN, KANADE!
GRAB
YEAH
PA
KU
NAMIKI-SAN!
ARE YOU OKAY, KANADE?
Snap
Yay! The bleeding stopped!
Ah!

I.. I... ...I'M FINE!
THAT'S GOOD! WHAT WERE YOU DOING ANYWAY? SO DILI-GENTLY!
CLOTH?
YOU'RE MAKING CLOTHES?
YEP, THE COSTUMES FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY...
HUH? WE'RE HOLDING A DANCE PARTY RIGHT AFTER THE CLOSING CEREMONY?
YEAH! THAT'S A TRADI-TION AT OUR SCHOOL! EVERY YEAR, WE ALL HAVE FUN DRESSING UP AS DIFFERENT CHARACTERS!
I want to be Santa Claus!
I want to dress up as a devil this time!
NAMIKI-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DRESS UP AS?
UM...
HEY!
I DON'T KNOW...
KANADE!
A-AROU!
AH, THE FOOD IS HERE!
AH, THAT IS RIGHT! BOTH OF YOU ARE TRANSFER STUDENTS,
SO YOU DIDN'T GET TO PARTICIPATE IN LAST YEAR'S PARTY...

WAS IT FUN?
YEAH! REALLY FUN!
EVEN THOUGH IT'S CALLED A CHRISTMAS PARTY THE DANCE WE USUALLY DO IS MORE OF A TRADITIONAL KIND...
IT SHOULD BE CALLED A TRADITIONAL PARTY!
Sighs
KANADE'S SMILE NOWADAYS
IS REALLY PLEASANT!
SHE'S GROWING CUTER AND CUTER NOW...
I'LL THINK ABOUT THE PRESENT MYSELF!

IF I HAD KNOWN, I WOULDN'T HAVE LOOKED.
SIGH
LOOKED AT WHAT ?
.....
NOTHING SPECIAL.
A PRESI-DENT, LIKE YOU...
VERY RELAXED
YOU LOOK ...


WOOOOSH!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT? THE OTHER JOBS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED FOR THE REST TO DO
Besides I have nothing to do!
... ALSO NEEDS TO DO MENIAL CHORES?

FU
WOOOOSH!
WHOA!
... WHAT A STRONG WIND!

DID HE BLOCK THE WIND FOR ME?
.....
BUT THERE MUST BE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMITTEE FOR THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION PARTY!
That's true but
DIDN'T I ASK YOU TO DO IT FOR ME?
WOOOOSH!
THEY HAVE THEIR OWN THINGS TO NEED TO BE DONE.
REALLY! JUST GET SOMEONE ELSE TO DO THESE KIND OF JOBS!

ALL RIGHT!
IT'S DONE!
Stretch!
I'LL HELP YOU DOWN!
IF YOU ARE REALLY SINCERE ABOUT HELPING ME,
.....
THEN WHY NOT COME AND HELP ME FIX SOME MORE LIGHT BULBS TOMORROW?
There are still tons of them
THANKS, BUT IT'S ALRIGHT.
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
.....
Jump
EH?

INDEED THE LIGHT BULBS THAT I FIXED JUST NOW
AREN'T REALLY ENOUGH
AH!
BANG!
HUH? PRESIDENT?
NAMIKI-SAN?
I'M SORRY!
AH!
I'M SORRY
NO! IT'S MY OWN FAULT!
Rustle
Rustle

Woosh
.....
.....
SHE REALLY IS A BUSY PERSON
SORRY
IT'S ALRIGHT! I WAS THE ONE WHO CRASHED INTO YOU!
HUH?
YO!
I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT YOU WOULD REALLY TURNED UP!
AH!
What's with the "I didn't expect."??
HOW RUDE! I'M ACTUALLY A GOOD GUY!
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU ARE A GOOD GUY OR NOT, I JUST KNOW THAT YOU HELPED ME BEFORE!
.....

FU
WA
ARE YOU COLD?
IT SEEMS LIKE THERE ARE MORE LIGHTS TODAY THAN YESTERDAY
HUH? YEAH, JUST A LITTLE BIT
IT'S FINE! YOU HAVE IT ON FIRST
MY JACKET IS IN THE MEETING ROOM, SO I'LL GET IT WHEN I GO BACK!
HUH? THAT IS NOT NECESSARY!
ALSO,
YOU SHOULD EAT SOME MORE MEAT!
You don't eat enough meat so you easily feel cold!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
When we collided into each other I felt that you were way too light
YOU'RE TOO SKINNY! WHAT DID YOU EAT FOR LUNCH?
...SWEET BUN, PUDDING
AND SOME CAKE...
Are you an idiot? How can you eat such sweet things?
Because the human body needs sugar! We have muscles and a brain and we need sugar for energy!
Argue
Argue
YOU NEED TO EAT MORE BALANCED MEALS!

KANADE
AH! THAT'S RIGHT!
NAITOU AROU...
Whisper
I THINK SHE USED TO LIKE AROU
AROU!
OH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M PREPARING FOR WINTER!
Shiver
Shiver
WAH!
Shiver
SO COLD!
AH!
LET'S HURRY UP AND GO!
Why are you purposely flaunting your physical superiority?
You're being rude.
Enough
HEY
DADADADADADADA

I'M DONE!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
THE SNOW WILL START FALLING THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW,
SO I'M USING THE HAY TO KEEP THESE CABBAGES WARM.
PLANTS ARE QUITE GOOD AT ENDURING SNOW AND I'VE DECIDED TO USE THEM FOR TSUKE-MONO.*
SO YOU ALSO KNOW HOW TO MAKE TSUKE-MONO.
* TSUKEMONO = JAPANESE PICKLES.
YOUR HAND IS SO COLD!
YOU REALLY CHERISH THIS VEGETABLE GARDEN A LOT!
ARGU!
YOUR HAND IS ALL RED!

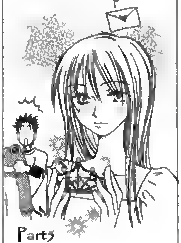
.....
TURN
TURN
.....
THE STARTLING THING IS...
.....
YEAH.
THE MORE SINCERE EFFORT YOU PUT INTO THEM, THE BETTER THE THEY WILL TASTE.
THE STARTLING THING IS THAT I FEEL THE LOVE I HAVE INSIDE ME...
Kiss
IS GROWING BIGGER AND BIGGER!

IT'S A GREAT THING TO CHERISH YOUR LOVED ONES AND TO TREASURE EVERYTHING AROUND YOU.
YEAH, I AGREE!
Ah! Nanaki-san!
Let's go home together, too!
Ah! When did you come??
I'M HOME!
CLICK
HI AROU!
UNCLE SOU!
YOU'RE BACK?
YOU CAME AROUND TO VISIT US AGAIN?
YEAH!
I'LL GO MAKE DINNER NOW!

AROU !
.....
REMEMBER LAST TIME WHEN YOU TOLD ME ABOUT THE TIME WHEN YOUR POWER GOT STRONGER?
YEAH?
YUP ...
YOU SAID THAT BECAUSE OF AN IMPORTANT PERSON YOU PRAYED AND PRAYED SO HARD— RIGHT?
YEAH.
THEN, I THOUGHT FOR A LONG TIME—
BESIDES SANAE, WHO IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON TO ME?
IN THE END,
THERE WAS ONLY ONE PERSON THAT I COULD THINK OF
THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON TO ME,
IS YOU !
IT'S YOU,
AROU !

TOMORROW IS THE CHRISTMAS PARTY!
As well as the graduation event.
HAVE YOU GUYS DECIDED ON WHAT TO WEAR?
AH, THE GIRLS IN CLASS WILL PREPARE THAT STUFF FOR ME...
Just like the time at Cultural Festival
DON'T TELL ME THEY WANT YOU TO DRESS UP AS A FEMALE AGAIN?
HAHA! NO WAY!
.....
DEPRESSED
BUT I THINK YOU LOOK NICE IN A FEMALE COSTUME
Since it's a Christmas dress up party after all.
It's a party. I have no desire to wear a costume, yet either.
BUT... THERE IS A POSSIBILITY.
BY THE WAY, THE CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE HAS BEEN WORKING REALLY HARD!
BESIDES THE SCHOOL GROUNDS, EVEN THE SCHOOL BUILDING HAS BEEN NICELY DECORATED!
ALL THE ROOFTOPS OF OUR BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN DECORATED WITH LIGHT BULBS!
YEAH!
NAMIKI-SAN, DID YOU KNOW?
THAT'S RIGHT! THE GYM'S ALREADY FULLY SET UP!
ALTHOUGH THEY ARE ALL NORMAL BULBS, IT STILL LOOKS VERY CUTE!

1/4 Sakura's Personal letter

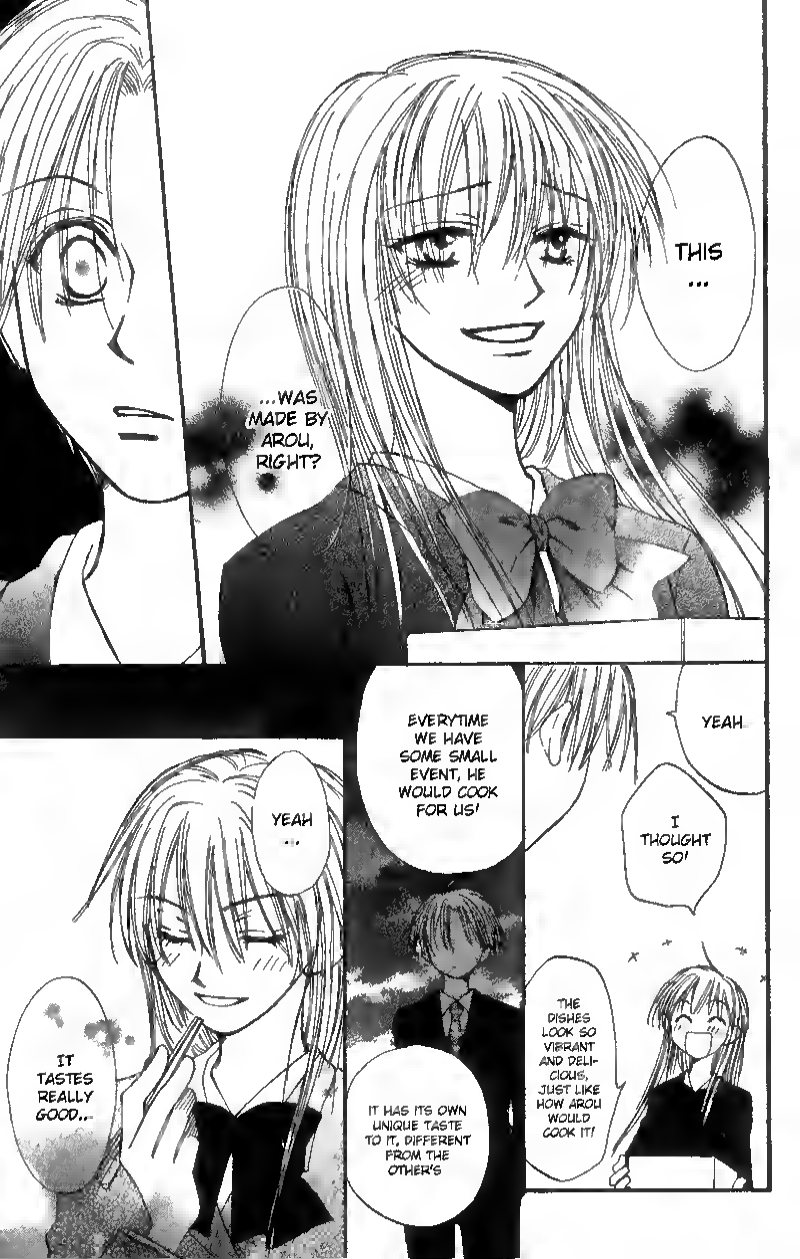


Part3

I've drawn more love stories! For Christmas I have tried to make Namiki happy as well because before I wanted to draw a naive and clumbsy prince. plus my fever hasn't fallen yet so I've made Namiki look like a Prince. (he's actually meant to look like a knight) Cosplay is so fun and interesting! I love those fancy clothes! Whenever I see "The Three Masketiers (I'm bad at spelling it_ check spelling plz)" or "The Mask" I always feel so content for no apparent reason. I like the fancy clothes skirts and the laces at the bottom of dresses. However without the help from the Editor Kondou-san. I wouldn't have be able to draw them! Thank you Kondou-san! Thank you!

AH!
Munch
THIS TASTES GOOD
.....
Come even if you don't want to, because it's christmas after all!
You will come and join everyone at the dance party right?
.....
HUH? NAMIKI-SAN, HOW COME YOU ARE EATING SO LITTLE TODAY?
YEAH
THAT PERSON WILL MOST LIKELY BE ABLE TO EAT THESE TYPE OF RICE-BALLS
.....
Does it taste bad?
PA

HOW PRETTY! IT LOOKS SO GRAND
STARE
THANK YOU! YOU HELPED ME A LOT THERE!
NO PROBLEM
WHAT DID YOU EAT FOR LUNCH THIS TIME?
SHOCK
AH... OH...
I BET THIS GIRL ATE JUNK FOOD AGAIN
THESE ARE THE LEFT-OVERS FROM MY LUNCH THEY TASTE VERY GOOD SO GO AHEAD AND EAT!
SFX DON


THIS ...
...WAS MADE BY AROU, RIGHT?
YEAH
I THOUGHT SO!
EVERYTIME WE HAVE SOME SMALL EVENT, HE WOULD COOK FOR US!
THE DISHES LOOK SO VIBRANT AND DELICIOUS, JUST LIKE HOW AROU WOULD COOK IT!
YEAH ...
IT TASTES REALLY GOOD..
IT HAS ITS OWN UNIQUE TASTE TO IT, DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER'S

I would not have done that.
NAMIKI-SAN!
THANKS!
If I had known earlier,
I GUESS IT'S BETTER NOT TO DO THESE KIND OF UNCOMFORTABLE THINGS TOO OFTEN!
WALK
WALK
WALK
RUMBLE

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! FORGET ALL OF YOUR TROUBLES AND DANCE AWAY!!
Program Leader!
HAVE A GREAT CHRIST-MAS!!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!!

Costume party?
Yeah, costume party.
ALTHOUGH THIS COSTUME SUITS YOU VERY WELL IT STILL MAKES ME WANT TO BURST OUT LAUGHING.
Luckily the girls didn't make me wear things like that.
THAT GOES FOR YOU TOO.
Thank you girls
What about you? Why are you dressed like that?
The guys in our class... are all dressed like this.
AH! OVER THERE!
TAP TAP
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!

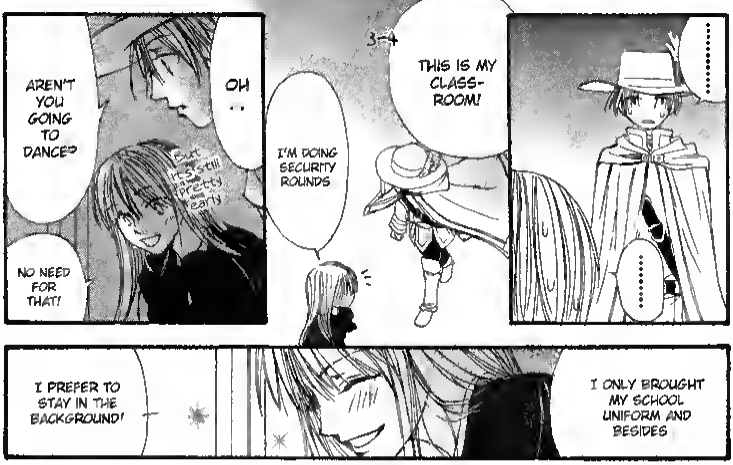
AH ...!
THE BOTH OF YOU LOOK SO GOOD IN YOUR COSTUMES!
WOW
HEH, HEH, HEH!
You are so cute!
AH! THE OKLAHOMA MIXER IS STARTING!
LET'S HURRY AND GO JOIN THE OTHERS!

donchiki
pakachiku
HUH?
They are gone?
Turn
Turn
KANADE
?

IT'S KANADE
I SHIPPE TOO MUCH...
RUSH

CHICK!
WE'RE FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL!
Crea——k
IS SOMEONE STILL IN THIS CLASS-ROOM?
I WILL CHECK OVER THERE ...
THANKS!
I'LL LOOK AROUND HERE.
KACHA
Tomoe OF IKUSHE
EVERYONE IS ENJOY-ING THEM-SELVES!
HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HUH?
EH?


3-4
THIS IS MY CLASS-ROOM!
I'M DOING SECURITY ROUNDS
OH..
AREN'T YOU GOING TO DANCE?
But it's still pretty early
NO NEED FOR THAT!
I ONLY BROUGHT MY SCHOOL UNIFORM AND BESIDES
I PREFER TO STAY IN THE BACKGROUND!

OH!
Anti-asceti-cism.
WHAT ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU HERE TO TAKE A REST?
YEAH, I GUESS YOU CAN SAY THAT
YOU LOOK
JUST LIKE A REAL PRINCE!
NO, NO, NO!
Prince Namiki Picture
I'M A HORSEMAN! A HORSEMAN!
REALLY?
THEN YOU'RE CINDERELLA!!
YEAH RIGHT.
Thank you so much!
Ha-ha-ha!
IT'S SNOWING ON CHRISTMAS...
BELOW US, EVERYONE IS ATTENDING THE CHRISTMAS PARTY.
RIGHT NOW I HAVE A HORSEMAN BY MY SIDE.
THIS SCENERY IS JUST TOO PRETTY
WELL THEN THERE SHOULD BE SOMETHING THAT WE CAN DO..

PRINCESS,
WILL YOU DO ME THE HONOR
OF DANCING WITH ME?

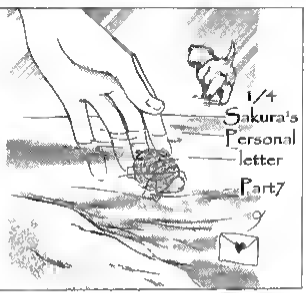
Heh
AH! SHE SMILED!
WITH PLEASURE!

After-wards ...
DO YOU WANT TO DANCE TO THE NEXT SONG?
BUT THAT SONG IS FOR JENKA!
IT'S HARD TO DANCE THAT WITH JUST TWO PEOPLE
THAT'S TRUE.
They are not the type to easily become a couple.

MEKAKUSHI NO KUNI

CHAPTER 39

Whaaa! It's already the second last chapter! In this episode Kanade and friends go on a Ski Trip! I have skied before, but not on a board...I absolutely have zero confidence when it comes to balance. That's why Kanade's lessons on snowboarding in this chapter are painfully slow too!



I THOUGHT THAT YOU GUYS WOULD BE FROZEN TO DEATH
THIS WINTER HAS BROUGHT US QUITE A LOT OF SNOW
Brush
Ah, so pretty
Brush
GREAT!
THEY CAME OUT BETTER THAN EXPECTED!
WHOOSH
RIGHT NOW, KANADE AND HER FRIENDS ARE PROBABLY HAVING LOTS OF FUN AT THE SKI RESORT
IT'S COLD
BLOOSH
IF I HAD KNOWN EARLIER, I WOULD HAVE JOINED THEM
IT MUST BE EVEN COLDER AT KANADE'S CURRENT LOCATION

SL
ip
!
BLO
OSH
VERY GOOD! EVERYONE LEARN FROM HER!
FIRMLY REMEMBER THE BASIC ACTIONS SUCH AS BENDING YOUR KNEES WHEN YOU FALL
SLIDE SLIDE SLIDE
Yeah, we've got it!
We've got it!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT KANADE?

TO BE ABLE TO LEARN THOSE HIGHLY SKILLED JUMPS IN SNOW-BOARDING!
AH, BUT I STILL HOPE ...
OKAY, I WISH YOU LUCK!
YEAH, I KEEP FALLING!
Can't help it I just learned!
Ha Ha Ha!
YOU FELL IN SUCH AN EXAG-GERATED MANNER!
I HAVE NATURAL-BORN ATHLETIC ABILITIES
HEH, HEH!
YOU'VE ALREADY MASTERED THE SKILL OF SNOW-BOARDING!
ERI, I REALLY ADMIRE YOU!
BUT YOU CAN COME HERE AGAIN WITH AROU WHEN YOU HAVE IMPROVED!
Arou trans-ferred here at the beginning of the year. At that time he felt that it was too much trouble, so he didn't bother to sign up...
Ezawa and I signed up individually before we got together!
.....
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN BETTER IF AROU WAS ALSO ABLE TO COME
THAT COULDN'T BE HELPED SINCE YOU HAD TO SIGN UP FOR IT AT THE BEGGINING OF THE YEAR.

UNCLE SOU!
I REMEMBER THE TIME WHEN MY POWER SUDDENLY GOT STRONGER!

I PRAYED AND PRAYED SO HARD!
AT THAT TIME, I WAS STILL SEARCHING FOR MOM

YEAH!

I'M HOME!
BAM
I DID THAT TOO! I PRAYED WITH ALL MY MIGHT TOO!
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE IT WASN'T ENOUGH...
FOR AN IMPORTANT PERSON,
PRAYING EVER SO HARD AND THE POWER SHOULD GROW STRONGER
AND THEN SUDENLY I REALIZED THAT,
MY POWER HAD GOTTEN STRONGER!

HAH
IT'S REALLY COLD OUTSIDE, UNCLE SOU!
YOU'RE BACK, AROU!
IS YOUR LITTLE VEGETABLE GARDEN OKAY?
YEAH! EVEN THOUGH IT'S BEEN SNOWING QUITE HEAVILY FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS, THE VEGETABLES ARE GROWING WELL!
YOU'RE REALLY DILIGENT!
AROU, YOU...
YOU REALLY CHERISH THIS VEGETABLE GARDEN A LOT!
YEAH! BECAUSE IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO ME!
AH!
I'LL GO PREPARE LUNCH!
Since it's already so late!
AROU!

LET'S GO OUT FOR DINNER THIS TIME!
WHAT SHOULD WE EAT? JAPANESE, CHINESE OR ITALIAN?
I'LL EAT ANYTHING BUT IF IT'S DELICIOUS THAT WOULD BE EVEN BETTER!
AND IN THE FUTURE, I CAN COOK EVEN MORE DELICIOUS FOOD!
ONCE TOLD ME THAT WHEN I EAT GOOD FOOD, MY TONGUE WILL BECOME SENSITIVE TO DELICIOUS FOOD
WHAT WOULD [illegible]OLI LIKE?
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...
.....
SLOWLY
IT WAS SANAE...

I ONLY NEED TO GIVE A SLIGHT PUSH...
.....
AND I WOULD HAVE THE CHANCE,
TO START PRAYING WITH ALL MY HEART
JUST LIKE AROU RESPONDED
WHEN HE FELT SANAE WAS IN DANGER...
WHAT I LACKED,
WAS PROBABLY THE OPPORTUNITY

WHY
WHY ISN'T MY HAND MOVING?

WHY?
HAHAHA
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
HUH? FOR REAL?
KNOCK

SKREECH

YOU IDIOT! RUSHING OUT LIKE THAT! DO YOU WANT TO DIE!?
VRROOM
THAT'S DANGER-OUS!
Wah!! Come back here! Come back here!
I'm really sorry!
Ah! Sorry!

AH...
We're so sorry!
But please be more careful in the future.
Ah, I'm alright
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THAT IS IT
THIS IS WHAT I SHOULD BE FEELING
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
ALRIGHT! NOW IT'S OTSKUA KANADE'S TURN!
YES!
HOW DID I DO?
You didn't even stop in front of us...
OKAY I GUESS SO
STOP
no to...
NO TO
NO TO
no to

KANADE!
HI SENSEI!
WELL? HOW IS SNOWBOARDING COMING ALONG?
HELLO EVERYONE
TOO BAD THAT NAITOU AROU WASN'T ABLE TO COME ALONG
Ha Ha Ha
Yikes!
THAT'S ALRIGHT I'LL ACCOMPANY HIM HERE NEXT TIME!
Sensei are you the instructor for the advanced class?
I STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO!
Can I sit next to you?
GOOD LUCK THEN.
THANKS!
.....
NO, YOU TWO CAN'T GO ALONE!
Us teachers haven't even gotten married yet!
That's right!

OKAY EVERY-ONE! LET'S MOVE UP TO HIGHER GROUNDS ...
AH, THE WEATHER IS VERY NICE!
How Comfy!
I STILL WISH I COULD HAVE COME WITH AROU THOUGH!
Raise Head
Ok!
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE TODAY!
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE IT'S THE WINTER HOLIDAYS SO THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE OUT ON THE STREETS
BUMP
BUMP

1/4 Sakura's Personal letter Parts

When I was rushing the drafts this time (and for the next chapter too) I don't know why but this teacher (arrow up) is very popular among my assistants. It's the same to me as well. I've put more than average amount of love in drawing his hair. So when he's popular it makes me happy as well. Actually he has been popping out occasionally since a long time ago but was never named. He's the one who's really good friends with the infirmatory teacher! The teacher there didn't have a name neither! To tell you the truth I did secretly name them in my heart!

When I thought about it afterwards I realised that in my comic a lot of the minor and the sub-characters don't have names! I want to get rid off this bad habbit!

HM...
ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?
AROU, WHAT'S WRONG?
I'M OKAY...
I'M JUST NOT USED TO BEING IN SUCH A CROWDED AREA, BUMPING INTO SO MANY PEOPLE
I WILL BE FINE WHEN I EAT SOME GOOD FOOD
WELL THEN,
LET'S MOVE FASTER !

YEAH!
WOOOSH...
EVERYBODY, LET'S START MOVING AT A SLOW SPEED
THE VISIBILITY RATE IS GETTING LOWER
Okay!
DON'T RUSH, JUST FOLLOW ME SLOWLY
THE WEATHER WAS SO NICE JUST NOW... WHY DID IT SUDDENLY...
I wanna snowboard for a little longer!
It's over already?

WOOSH
W OOO OOSH
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
AROU!

collapse
Rub
YOU JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES AND REST FOR A WHILE
Yuun
YEAH— ALL THOSE PEOPLE SQUEEZING
THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SOME KIND OF ORGANIZED EVENT AT THE PLACE WE WENT TO TODAY—
Hm
I'M SORRY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT YOU TO THAT KIND OF PLACE
TIRING YOU OUT LIKE THIS!
BECAUSE YOU TOOK ME TO THAT RESTAURANT IT WAS REALLY DELICIOUS!
BESIDES COMPARE TO THE PAST,
EVEN THOUGH I'M TIRED IT'S STILL OKAY
THAT WAS SUCH A GOOD OPPORTUNITY
HM
BUT MY HAND JUST WOULD NOT MOVE
WHY?

I'M ALREADY NO LONGER THAT AFRAID,
TO COME IN CONTACT WITH PEOPLE!
BUT UNCLE SOU,
.....
WHY DO YOU WANT TO SEE MORE OF THE PAST SO BADLY?
IS — MY WAY OF THINKING STRANGE?
IT'S NOT STRANGE, I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHY—
THE ANSWER IS VERY SIMPLE!

NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, I CAN ONLY SEE UP TO LAST WEEK'S EVENTS!
THAT'S BECAUSE I CAN ONLY SEE A BIT OF THE PAST!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF MEMORIES OF SANAE!
WITH THE CURRENT ME,

HOWEVER, NOTHING WORKS!
IN ORDER TO MAKE MY POWER GROW I'M WILLING TO DO ANY-THING.
I CONTACTED THE WORLD'S BEST EXPERTS, CONSULTED WITH THE BEST SUPERNATURAL INVESTIGATORS... I EVEN WENT TO THE TEMPLE!
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S STRANGE? YOU AND I ARE EXACTLY THE SAME...
IF I COULD INCREASE MY POWER TOO.
IT WOULD MAKE SENSE,

DO YOU VALUE YOUR-SELF?
UNCLE SOU,

WHAT ?
……!
TELL!…
TELLL
YEAH,
AREN'T YOU GOING TO PICK IT UP?
I WILL ANSWER THE PHONE
TEL…
KACHA
AH, NAMIKI?
Did you watch the news ?
HELLO?
Arou?

No, what hap-pened
DIDN'T KANADE GO ON THAT SKI TRIP?
She might have gotten into an accident!

AROU?
I'M HEADING TOWARDS YOUR HOUSE IN A TAXI RIGHT NOW!
SO GO AND GET YOURSELF READY!
If that's reallly the situation...
SL
AM
THEN WITH YOUR POWER
KACHA
THERE SHOULD BE A WAY FOR YOU TO SAVE HER!

Thump
SHE MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN INTO AN ACCIDENT!
IF THAT'S REALLY THE SITUATION...
Thump
Thump
IF THAT'S REALLY THE SITUATION... THEN WITH YOUR POWER
Thump
AN ACCIDENT!
KANADE!

Wooooosh
KANADE!

AROU! ARE YOU ALRIGHT? DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD!
Slam
Slam
KU
GI
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! FINDING KANADE IS MORE IMPORTANT!
...I'M FINE!
.....
Thump
Thump
Thump
Thump
Dash
Murmur
Murmur
Murmur
AUNTIE!

AH! AROU! NAMIKI!
AUNTIE! WHERE'S KANADE? HAVE THEY FOUND HER YET?
NO...
NOT YET...
THE SEARCH TEAM RETURNED ONCE, BUT THEY HAVE NOT FOUND HER YET...
AROU! NAMIKI!
IT'S ALREADY SO LATE
.....
ERI! THANK GOODNESS YOU ARE ALRIGHT!
I'M FINE BECAUSE I WAS IN A DIFFERENT GROUP THAN KANADE! IT'S THE GROUP CONSISTING OF 5 PEOPLE, INCLUDING KANADE, THAT IS MISSING!
YEAH, TOGETHER WITH NAMIKI ..
DID YOU JUST ARRIVE HERE?

RIGHT NOW,
I'M TRYING TO SEE ...
NAMIKI!
QUIET!
DAMN IT! I CAN'T SEE A THING!
WHO ELSE CAN I ...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
.....
.....
.....
...!

MY DAUGHTER IS STILL OUT THERE SOMEWHERE IN THE SNOW, WAITING TO BE RESCUED!
CALLING BACK ALL OF YOUR SEARCH TEAMS? WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
IT CAN'T BE HELPED! THE BLIZZARD IS TOO FIERCE! IF WE GO SEARCH NOW, I'M AFRAID EVEN WE WOULD ENCOUNTER DIFFICULITIES!
HOW LONG WOULD THAT TAKE?
AS SOON AS THE BLIZZARD CEASES WE'LL DEFINITELY START SEARCHING AGAIN
Thump

KANADE!
THUMP

DASH
KANADE!
KANADE!
HEY YOU!
Thump
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU!
WHERE ARE YOU? I'LL GO AND FIND YOU RIGHT NOW!
Thump
PLEASE!
KANADE!
AROU!
IDIOT DON'T RUN AROUND!
I BEG YOU! PLEASE TELL ME WHERE KANADE IS...
Thump
I WANT TO SAVE HER!!
Thump
PLEASE! TELL ME HER WHERE-ABOUTS!
PLEASE!

SLIDE

Wooosh

KANADE,

YOU ARE
EXTREMELY
IMPORTANT
TO ME.

THEREFORE,
I BEG YOU!
PLEASE
BE SAFE!

KANADE!
WOOOOSH
KANADE!
KANADE!

MEKAKUSHI NO KUNI
FINAL CHAPTER

Waaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhh!!! It's the last volume!

Ah... I feel so grateful! During these times to be able to continue for so long I give my thanks to everyone! AHHHHHHHH! Because, it's a series that runs in LALA DX it has taken five years to complete everything!

ZA
ZA
TELL ME THE WHEREABOUTS OF KANADE! PLEASE!
ZA ZA
KANADE...
YOU MUST BE SAFE AND SOUND!
ZA ZA ZA ZA
KANADE!
ALL RIGHT
I'M GOING TO LIGHT UP!
Klik

WOW
IT'S SO BRIGHT!
SO BRIGHT!
...are currently...
The few of us...
IT'S BEST TO REMAIN HERE UNTIL THE BLIZZARD IS OVER.
AT LEAST HIDING BEHIND THESE ROCKS WILL PROVIDE SOME SHELTER FROM THE WIND.
While we were snowboarding, the weather suddenly turned foul.
And we seem to have taken a wrong turn on our way down the mountains.
...stuck in the mountains.
EVERYONE, JUST TRY TO REST IN A COMFORTABLE POSITION.
OK!
Noosh
WE'LL TRY AND MOVE ON ONCE THE SUN RISES
WILL WE BE ABLE TO GET BACK...?
KUTTSUKO

I'm not alone!
WE WILL BE FINE!
CLENCH
Thump Thump Thump
I'M NOT AFRAID
IT WILL BE FINE,
THAT'S RIGHT!
YEAH ....
YEAH!
Everyone's looking out for each other,

WHAT?
THE GUY WHO RAN OUT JUST NOW?
ANOTHER STUDENT HAS GONE MISSING?
BUT DIDN'T EVERY-ONE CHASE AFTER HIM?
HOW COULD YOU LOSE SIGHT OF HIM?
BECAUSE RIGHT IN FRONT OF OUR EYES
HE DIS-SOLVED AND DISAP-PEARED.
WHAT HAPPENED? DON'T TELL ME... THAT AROU TOO...
A-AUNTIE, DON'T WORRY! EVERYTHING WIL BE FINE!
WHAT THE HECK... YOU GUYS SAYING?
NAMIKI-SAN!

DEFINITELY MELTED
HIS HAND
BUT AROU...
IS TRYING HIS HARDEST THIS TIME AS WELL...
Slide
THE AROU JUST NOW EMITTED THE SAME KIND OF VIBES!
THERE WAS ONE TIME WHEN KANADE AND I FELL INTO THE SEA AND HE CAME TO RESCUE US
Strong thin wheel
SINCE EVERYTHING TURNED OUT FINE LAST TIME IT SHOULD BE THE SAME THIS TIME AS WELL...
.....
IT WILL BE ALRIGHT!
whssh
.....
Thump
Thump
Thump
EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT!
AROU WILL DEFINITELY FIND KANADE!

THAT'S RIGHT! SOMETHING LIKE THIS ALSO HAPPENED BEFORE...
DO YOU WANT SOME CHOCOLATE?
ALL RIGHT!
HUH?
TURNS
KANADE!
TURNS
.....
DEPRESSED
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
WHY DO I KEEP GETTING MYSELF INTO SUCH SITUATIONS?
DURING THE VACATION TOUR--
.....
BACK THEN WE WERE SWEPT AWAY BY THE WAVES... AND IT WAS AROU WHO FOUND US.
HEY! HEY!
AH! THE WIND SEEMS TO HAVE CALMED DOWN A LITTLE!
.....
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, KANADE?
GASP

AROU !
HE'S CALLING ME!
I HAVE THE FEELING THAT HE'S CALLING ME!

AROU!
WE'RE ONLY 30 MINUTES AWAY FROM THE SKI CENTER LOCATED AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN
FOLLOW ME EVERY-ONE!
ONE, TWO!
ONE, TWO!
Squish
Squish
AROU FOUND US ALL BY HIMSELF?
IT LOOKS LIKE IT
HEY.

HEY!
Phew
IT'S THE SKI CENTER!
THERE ARE LIGHTS!
GREAT! WE'RE SAVED!
IT'S GREAT! AR...

Collapse
Woosh
WHERE ARE YOU?
... HEY
AROU!
... AR...

AROU
!
THEY ARE BACK!
I'M SO RELIEVED, KANADE! ARE YOU HURT IN ANY WAY?
NOPE, I'M FINE
KANADE!
KANADE !
MOM!
chatter
YEAH! THAT'S GREAT!
THANK GOODNESS YOU GUYS ARE FINE!
chatter
SORRY AS THE TEACHER, I HAVEN'T TAKEN GOOD CARE OF YOU GUYS
chatter

1/4 Sakura's Personal Letter Part1a

The time is set in May during the first volume of **Mekakushi no Kuni** and it ended in January in the last volume. So the story timeline ran for 9 months...Good! During this short span of 9 months a lot went on in the lives of the main characters and they did a lot of stuff with the school holding a lot of activities as well. When I was drawing the teaser for the last volume I felt such strong emotions! Although these feelings existed for a while I felt that I re-acquainted myself with Kanade, Arou and Alamiki when drawing the teaser. I really love these three kids !

My thanks to the birth of these 3 characters! Thanks to the readers! I will see you next round!

KANADE! THANK GOOD-NESS!
Satoharu
ERI!
ERI, DID AROU COME HERE?
YEAH... HE WAS HERE BEFORE... BUT LEFT TO SEARCH FOR YOU GUYS...
THAT'S IT! AROU FOUND US JUST NOW AND LEAD US HERE, BUT THEN...
HE SUDDENLY VANISHED...
SOU-SAN!
pats
.....
THE SECOND TIME HE VAN-ISHED DOESN'T SEEM TO BE OF HIS OWN WISH
SINCE HE USED TOO MUCH ENERGY DURING THE DAY...
COULD IT BE THAT HE HAS REACHED HIS LIMITS...?

HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GUYS GOING?
WE ARE GOING TO LOOK FOR AROU!
SOU-SAN, CAN YOU USE YOUR POWER TO FIND AROU?
AROU MIGHT NOT BEING ABLE TO RETURN BECAUSE HE USED UP ALL HIS ENERGY
LET'S GIVE IT A TRY!
HOW CAN I LET YOU GUYS...
BLOCK
ARE YOU KIDDING ME? THERE WAS A GUY WHO RAN OFF JUST LIKE YOU AND GOT LOST!
PLEASE LET US GO OUT AND LOOK FOR HIM!
IT WAS AROU WHO WAS WITH US EARLIER AND GUIDED US TO THIS PLACE!
DON'T TALK NONSENSE! THE PLACE WHERE YOU GOT LOST IS SO FAR AWAY FROM THE SKI CENTER!
HOW COULD THAT GUY POSSI-BLE..
PERHAPS THIS GIRL

PERHAPS OTSUKA KANADE ...
KNOWS HOW TO FIND NAITOU AROU!
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT... WE REALLY NEED OTSUKA KANADE!
PLEASE, LET US SEARCH FOR HIM!
DO THEY KNOW ABOUT THE POWERS YOU GUYS HAVE?
NO... ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SOME WHO KNOWS, THE MAJORITY SHOULDN'T BE AWARE...
THE WEIRD THING IS

WITH THEIR CURRENT EXPRESSIONS IT'S AS IF THEY KNOW ...
AROU!
AROU!
AROU VANISHED AROUND THIS AREA, RIGHT?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!

YEAH! BUT I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING AFTER HE VANISHED..
DO YOU SEE ANY-THING?
.....
Thump
Thump
Thump
EVEN THOUGH THIS IS AN EMERGENCY WHY DOES MY POWER REMAIN THE SAME?
WHY HASN'T MY POWER INCREASED?
Thump
Thump
IT CAN'T BE THAT AROU SACRIFICE HIMSELF JUST TO SAVE US..
HE IS NO WHERE TO BE FOUND!!
LOGICALLY, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING, IF IT'S IMPORTANT ENOUGH...
AROU AND I ARE THE SAME.
WE BOTH DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO OURSELVES...

BUT, AROU ...
WOULDN'T SACRIFICE HIMSELF!
AROU DEFINITELY WON'T DISAPPEAR,
SINCE HE VALUES HIMSELF A LOT!

DON'T WORRY!
WE WILL DEFINITELY FIND HIM!
Y-YEAH!
THAT'S RIGHT! WE WILL DEFINITELY FIND HIM!
Clench
Alright! Let's search that way!

BROTHER! I'M PREGNANT!
DON'T TELL ME IT'S THAT MAN'S CHILD?
MORE IMPORTANTLY
AREN'T YOU TOO FRAIL TO HAVE A BABY?
DON'T WORRY!
I VALUE MYSELF TOO!
I VALUE MYSELF
A LOT!

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, BROTHER!
MY CHILD HAS GROWN SO MUCH!

STOMP

LOOK!
HE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE YOU!
UNCLE SOU,
DO YOU VALUE YOURSELF?
WHY ISN'T MY HAND MOVING?
HOW DO YOU DO AROU?
HOW DO YOU DO UNCLE SOU?
AROU!
AROU!
I don't care about the powers or anything else!
I ONLY WISH FOR YOUR SAFE RETURN!
PLEASE!
PLEASE SAVE AROU, OKAY?

PLEASE!
LET AROU RETURN SAFELY!
AROU!
AROU!

AROU DEFINITELY WOULDN'T DISAPPEAR JUST LIKE THAT!
Pant
Pant
THAT'S RIGHT! AROU WOULD NOT JUST VANISH!
Zaku
Zaku
Arou, you said that you cherished me!
In order for you to cherish me you must definitely come back!

You will definitely...
...value yourself
Shh
Wssh
Shh
TURN

FOUND HIM!
AROU !

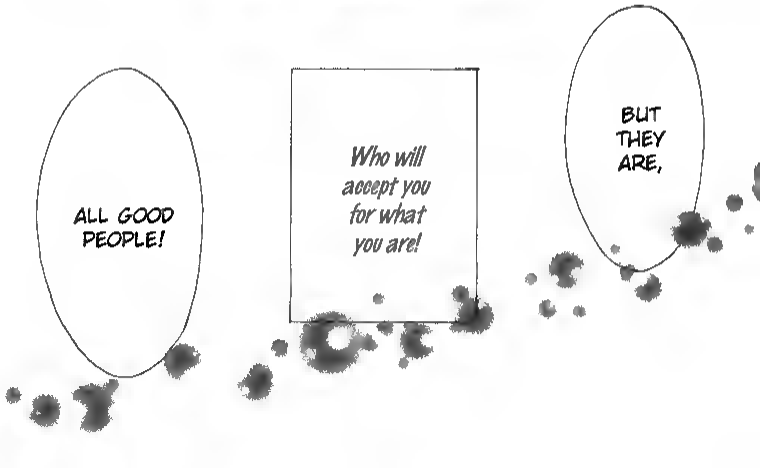
HEY!
KANADE
!

AROU
!

If...
...there's a 'land of the blindfolded'.
Will there be someone who understands what it's like to be able to see?
KANADE!
THANKS FOR FINDING ME!
IT WAS WITH YOUR CALL THAT I MANAGED TO FIND MY WAY BACK!
YEAH!

HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE INCIDENT AT THE SKI CENTRE DURING THE WINTER VACATION?
It's that bunch of people who eat their lunch outside.
YEAH I HEARD, WASN'T IT SECOND YEAR'S NAITOU ARCU WHO SUDDENLY VANISHED?
DON'T YOU THINK THAT MATTER'S SO FREAKY ?
Quite scary
HEY DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE IN THAT STUFF?
ALTHOUGH THAT PERSON IS REALLY OUT OF THE ORDINARY...
BUT HE'S HELPFUL... AND HE TRIED HIS BEST WHEN HE HELPED ME OUT...
HE ALSO TREATED US TO LUNCH BEFORE !
HE HAS BRIBED OUR STOM-ACHS!
HMM
TAP
THIS ISN'T TOO BAD EITHER!
tmp
tmp
tmp
Even so...

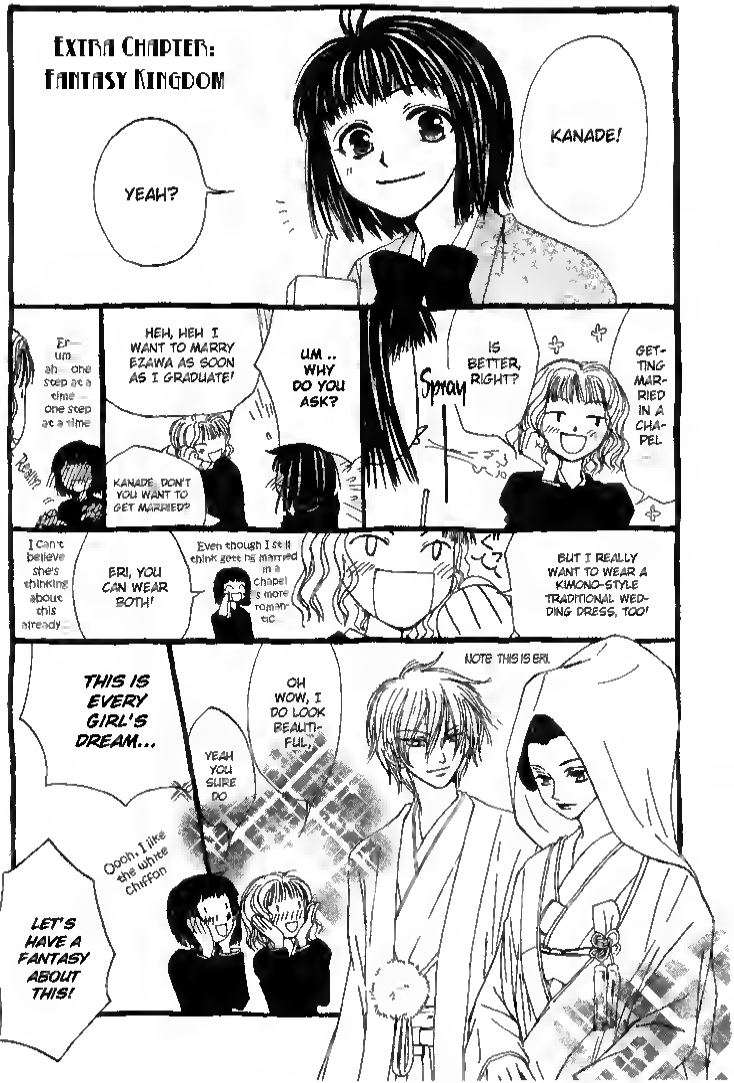
Wow, your lunch box looks lavish today!
Yours too Eri!
No one can understand what it means to see...
I THOUGHT AROU MAY NOT BE HUMAN WHEN I SAW HIM BACK THEN...
BUT I DON'T DISLIKE HIM AT ALL!
At the snow covered mountain
STOP LOOKING LET'S HURRY UP AND GO!
THAT GUY IS A MONSTER
2-6
There will always be people.
KACHA KACHA
And that guy in the third year as well
THAT GIRL-FRIEND OF HIS DOESN'T LOOK TOO NORMAL EITHER.
SOMETIMES, I STILL FEEL A BIT SCARED!


ALL GOOD PEOPLE!
Who will accept you for what you are!
BUT THEY ARE,

People's hearts,
...can't be seen by the naked eye...
But it doesn't matter

MEKAKUSHI NO KUNI FINAL CHAPTER // END

Extra! Sakura's Personal Letter
THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT! MEKAKUSHI NO KUNI HAS FINALLY COME TO AN END IN VOLUME 9
HELLO EVERYONE! MY NAME IS SAKURA TSUKUBA
BY THE WAY, FINAL RESULTS FOR THE LALA MAGAZINE'S END OF MEKAKUSHI NO KUNI READERS' SUBMISSION CONTEST IS IN
Please enjoy!
THE WINNER IS MOSHI CHIFAN! THIS NEXT CHAPTER IS BASED ON HIS IDEA!
EVEN THOUGH I SAY THIS AT THE END OF EVERY VOLUME, I STILL FEEL TO NEED TO SAY IT AGAIN I REALLY DIDN'T THINK THIS MANGA WOULD LAST THIS LONG... THANK YOU ALL SO, SO MUCH!
LOVE IS IN THE AIR THANK YOU, EVERYONE!

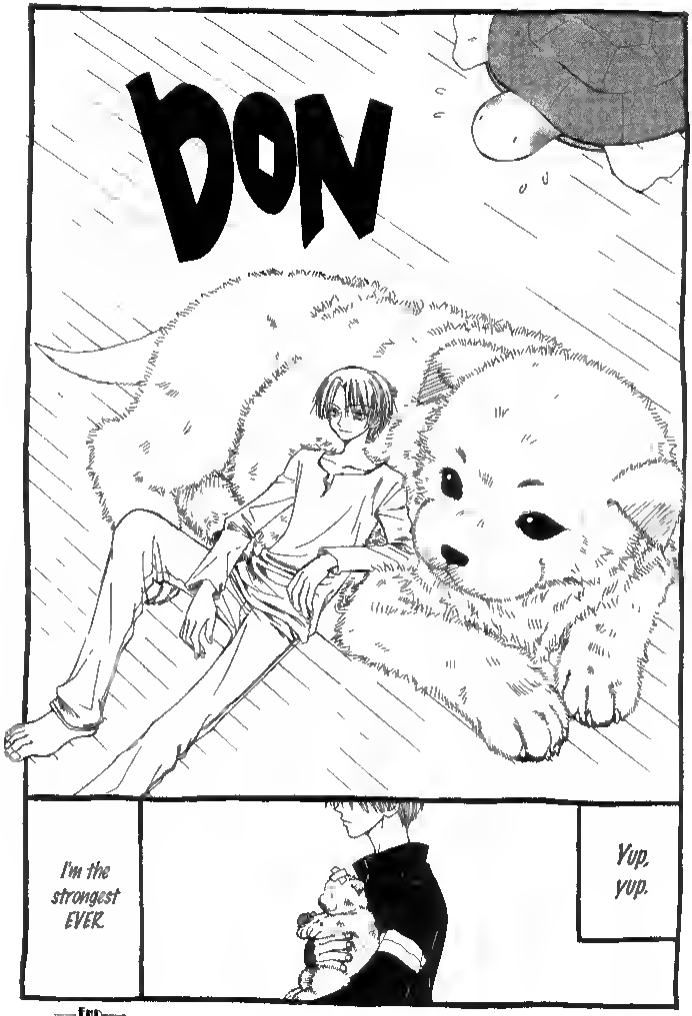

EXTRA CHAPTER:
FANTASY KINGDOM
KANADE!
YEAH?
GETTING MARRIED IN A CHAPEL
IS BETTER, RIGHT?
Spray
UM.. WHY DO YOU ASK?
HEH, HEH I WANT TO MARRY IZAWA AS SOON AS I GRADUATE!
Er— um— ah— one step at a time — one step at a time
Really?
KANADE, DON'T YOU WANT TO GET MARRIED?
BUT I REALLY WANT TO WEAR A KIMONO-STYLE TRADITIONAL WEDDING DRESS, TOO!
ERI, YOU CAN WEAR BOTH!
I can't believe she's thinking about this already...
Even though I still think getting married in a chapel is more romantic
NOTE THIS IS ERI.
OH WOW, I DO LOOK BEAUTIFUL.
YEAH YOU SURE DO
THIS IS EVERY GIRL'S DREAM...
Oooh, I like the white chiffon
LET'S HAVE A FANTASY ABOUT THIS!

YEAH!! SO COOL!!
So pretty!
So pretty!
So pretty!

TRUE TRUE...
I FEEL LIKE WE SHOULDN'T BE HERE
Kanade, this is great!
Yay! Yay!
Yay!
.....
Let me imagine this...
.....
Of course, idiot!
Aren't you going to college?
EH?!
Heh, heh, heh!
It's not like the school cares
I HAVE DECIDED TO VISIT KANADE EVERY DAY DURING LUNCH BREAK!
OH, YEAH, BY THE WAY...
NEXT YEAR, YOU'RE STILL GOING TO LEECH OFF OF US DURING LUNCH, RIGHT...?
Ha, ha, ha...
YEAH AND IT ISN'T JUST YOUR IMAGINATION
I JUST REALIZED A REALLY ANNOYING THING...
Let's go!
EH?

Kanade!
I WANTED TO REMIND YOU AHEAD OF TIME...
DON'T FORGET TO MAKE LUNCH FOR THREE!
FOR-GET IT.
THIS ISN'T SO BAD.
—END—

One day, in the park which we visit all the time...
WHOA !
Idiot! Idiot!
YOUR PAWS ARE SO BIG!
ONE DAY,
YOU'LL GROW UP TO BE SO SO BIG
...an adult dog told me so...
Why are you fighting with him?
Because he would not let me play with the turtle! I want to get to know the turtle!
...
Uhh, I can't believe you Let's go home
I will grow up and become...
I will one day grow up to be very big!
DID YOU GET INTO A FIGHT AGAIN?
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
Now I see that
FRIGGIN' HUGE.


DON
I'm the strongest EVER.
Yup, yup.
—End—

MANY MANY READERS SUBMITTED THEIR IDEAS. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR PARTICIPATING!

THOSE WERE THE EXTRA CHAPTERS ENTITLED *FANTASY KINGDOM*

In the story about Arou's birthday, Arou was supposed to blackmail Kanade for a birthday present. When I first faxed the story idea to our editor, he thought it was so funny he had to laugh—he he he—and then I had to laugh, too.

KANADE!

I've mentioned in one of my installments of Sakura's Personal Letters that my original idea was to make Arou a bad boy (smile).

My drawing technique kind of sucks, so I have to re-draw all the time.

So sometimes Arou doesn't turn out as he should. Sorry!

But I think Arou is cute like this, too.

This is Silver Lotus → also. I use it all the time!

This is one of my favorite flowers! It's strong, glamorous but still delicate. And the best part is it's so easy to draw!

By the way, the flower I draw all the time is called Silver Lotus.

They like, float everywhere in this manga.

Especially Kanade
She is so strong! She surprises even me!
But whenever I think about how I won't have a chance to draw the shine in her hair... I become kind of lonely...

I'm not worthy to be your Creator!

Arou, Namiki, Kanade!

Even though I like all the characters... These three central ones are still my favorites. Thank you guys for loving them, too! And I especially thank you for sticking with this manga to the very end!

I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE ONE LAST TIME THANK YOU!

MEKAKUSHI NO KUNI'S STORY WILL DRAW TO A CLOSE HERE

Please continue to support my other works!

See you next time! - Sakura.

Extra! Sakura's Personal Letter // End

Thanks for all your help!

Finally, I would like to thank... Sakuman, Yuko, Miho, Mika, Okamin, Lin, Mike

And family, friends, editors— I gave you all so much trouble

And of course, my loyal readers! Sakura is a fortunate woman! I really, really, really thank everyone!

"Sakura, please hand in your work on time!"

Sakura Tsukuba